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PARTY ALIGNMENT MORE APPARENT ON ARMED SHIP ISSUE

President's Friends Hope
to End Agitation in
House To-Day.

HEATED DISCUSSION
BREAKS OUT ON FLOOR

Flood Urges All Patriotic Con-
gressmen to Stand by
Administration.

CALL TO ABSENT DEMOCRATS

Several Members Ask Bryan for
Direct Answer to What
They Should Do.

WASHINGTON, March 6.—On the eve of what friends of the administration have planned as the final fight to end agitation in the House over the question of armed merchant ships, discussion on the subject broke out on the House floor to-day and continued hotly for more than an hour. When it was over there seemed to be more of a partisan alignment than at any time since the issue arose.

Representative Mann, of Illinois, the Republican leader, and Representative Barrett, of Wisconsin, Republican member of the Rules Committee, gave notice that they would oppose to-morrow the rule under which it is proposed to table the McMeure warning resolution after ninety minutes of debate on the rule and four hours of discussion of the resolution. On the other hand, Chairman Flood, of the Foreign Affairs Committee, who has been understood personally to favor a warning, voiced an appeal to all patriotic Congressmen to stand by the President.

Realizing the task ahead of them, the administration whips sent out calls to absent Democrats within reach to hurry to Washington in time for the vote to-morrow. The President's supporters believe that a large majority of the Democrats, as well as many Republicans, will stand together to put through the rule and kill the McMeure resolution. There will be formidable opposition, both in and out of the party, however, and the influence of William Jennings Bryan is being taken into account as a big factor to be dealt with.

SIXTEEN MEMBERS MEET
BRYAN AT LUNCH

Fourteen Representatives and two Senators met at lunch to-day with Mr. Bryan in the private dining room of a hotel near the Capitol and discussed affairs generally. What transpired there remained a secret, except that Representative Bailey, of Pennsylvania, who was the host, said no general agreement was reached on what action should be taken in the armed ship question.

Several of the diners asked Mr. Bryan for a direct answer to what they should do. Mr. Bailey said that it was not forthcoming. While all of it was felt favorable to the administration, the resolution, we do not want to do anything to embarrass the administration at the present time.

Those present were: Senators Kern and Vandamm, and Representatives Loberk, Stephens and Shallenberger, of Nebraska; Ayers and Belvering, of Kansas; Bailey and Steele, of Pennsylvania; Shnyder and Callaway, of Texas; Hensley, of Missouri; Gordon, of Ohio; Tamm, of Illinois; Huddleston, of Alabama; Hill, of Washington; Slason, of Mississippi; Tillman, of Arkansas; and Van Dyke, of Minnesota. Mr. Bryan left to-night for Wilmington, Del., to deliver a lecture.

Speakers on both sides of the warning question were applauded during to-day's debate, until it was difficult to determine which sentiment was the stronger. When Mr. Mann vigorously protesting that the question never should have been brought into the House, and criticizing Americans for taking passage on armed ships, expressed the hope that such an act would never draw the country into war, he was cheered heartily by the whole House.

REPRESENTATIVE GARDNER
PRECIPITATES DEBATE

Representative Gardner, of Massachusetts, precipitated the debate, after working unsuccessfully all day to have the Rules Committee pave the way for a direct vote on a warning resolution. The first step toward getting the McMeure resolution before the House was taken by Representative Fane, of Illinois, a Republican, at the request of the members of the Rules Committee, it is said. He asked that it be placed on the calendar, and it was done without debate. A short time later the Rules Committee reported its resolution, and the House, relieved of its long days of anxiety as to when debate would start, settled down, contented to await the official opening at 11 o'clock to-morrow morning, the time set by the Rules Committee.

Mr. Gardner did not wait. The House was in the committee of the whole considering the homestead bill when he heard of the report, and, obtaining time for a speech, he launched into a vigorous attack of the Rules Committee, declaring that its failure to report a warning resolution was a conspiracy to avoid the issue of partisanship and fear of the result of such a vote.

"I hope to see the vote come directly on the question of adoption or rejection of the McMeure resolution," Mr. Gardner declared, "because it has been heralded to the world that our action on that resolution is to be the test showing what our attitude is on this question of supporting the President or denying the President's right. There is no parliamentary tangle. If we send out from this House a confused action, it is because we have de-

CANNON APPEARS AGAINST BRANDEIS

Leader of Virginia Dry Forces
Witness Before Senate
Subcommittee.

FOR ANTI-SALOON LEAGUE

Opposition to Confirmation Based
on Utterances of Twenty-
Five Years Ago.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
WASHINGTON, March 6.—Dr. James Cannon, Jr., head of the prohibition forces of Virginia and chairman of the legislative committee of the Anti-Saloon League of America, appeared before the Senate subcommittee to-day in opposition to the confirmation of Louis Brandeis, of Boston, as associate justice of the United States Supreme Court.

This testimony was a completely new departure in the line of action against the Boston lawyer. Up to this time the opposition has dealt with Mr. Brandeis' professional conduct, his championship of corporate interests and his alleged unfitness for judicial duties. To-day the Virginian assailed Mr. Brandeis' attitude toward the moral issue of prohibition, calling the Bostonian a lobbyist for the liquor interests and the exponent of views upon that question which makes him undesirable as a judge upon the Supreme Bench.

The appearance of Dr. Cannon was a surprise to the people who crowded the committee room. Although the committee had been informed of the Virginian's desire to appear, at 1 o'clock this afternoon Dr. Cannon was presented to the subcommittee by Senator Martin, of Virginia, and at once took the stand.

READS LETTER ADDRESSED
TO COMMITTEE BY HIMSELF

At the outset the witness read a letter addressed to the committee by himself, in which he explained the significance of certain documents prepared by the Anti-Saloon League for the consideration of the Senate. This letter cited the following facts:

First, Mr. Brandeis appeared in 1911 before a committee in Massachusetts as the paid attorney of the Massachusetts Protective Liquor Dealers' Association.

Second, Mr. Brandeis appeared a little later as the counsel of the New England Brewers' Association.

Third, an argument was made by Mr. Brandeis before the Massachusetts legislators at that time in behalf of the liquor interests, which should bar the eminent lawyer from service on the Supreme Court bench.

Senator Chilton suggested that this incident occurred twenty-five years ago, and that there was quite a difference between the public attitude toward the liquor question then and to-day. Dr. Cannon insisted, however, that Mr. Brandeis' public utterances had failed to show any change in his position. He said the objection was not based so much on the fact that Mr. Brandeis appeared for the liquor interests and opposed pending legislation as on the sweeping statements he made about liquor traffic in arguments. Particular attention was directed to certain quoted statements, which were read by Cannon as follows:

"Liquor dealing is not wrong, etc."
"Remove from the statute book obnoxious and degrading laws. Remove the uncertainties with which you have surrounded the business, which is sure to exist for ages to come. Remove the disgrace which you have placed on this trade, etc."

"Gentlemen, let me urge you in conclusion, to remove this temptation to avarice and injustice. Trust your licensing boards, make your laws reasonable so that men may obey them, etc."

FACT WOULD NOT LOOK
WELL IN BIOGRAPHY

"It occurred to us," said Dr. Cannon, "that the fact that Mr. Brandeis should have appeared before a legislative committee as the paid lobbyist of the liquor traffic would not look well in a biography."

Senator Fletcher took issue with the statement that Mr. Brandeis was necessarily the "lobbyist" of the liquor interests. Dr. Cannon produced facsimile records of the Massachusetts legislative docket for legislative counsel, as required by law, in which Mr. Brandeis had recorded his appearance for the liquor dealers and the brewers' associations. Dr. Cannon said he presumed that any one who appeared as counsel before a legislative committee for the liquor interests would be regarded as a "lobbyist." He insisted that they would be so designated in Virginia.

Senator Cummins said it would make much difference to him whether Mr. Brandeis appeared as the paid attorney in regard to a question of public policy or public morals, or whether he appeared to express his individual views.

LIMIT PROBE FOR OMITTED TAXES

Senate Passes Gayle Bill as
Amended by Vote
of 27 to 7.

WOULD WIPE SLATE CLEAN

Bill Allows Examiners to Go
Back to 1903 for State and to
1912 for Local Taxes.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
WASHINGTON, March 6.—The Senate yesterday, by a vote of 27 to 7, set the seal of its approval upon the Gayle bill, designed definitely to fix the States policy with regard to the collection of omitted taxes.

As originally drawn, the measure proposed to limit the operations of examiners of records in unearthing cases of omitted taxes, both State and local, to the period since 1912. Conference, however, with the Attorney General, who expressed some doubt of the constitutionality of a statute limiting the time in which omitted State taxes may be collected, resulted in an amendment, sponsored by Senators Goodrich and Cannon, which provided that all assessments of taxes for State purposes made prior to 1903 shall conclusively be presumed to be true and correct.

The amendment, which left the true limit, so far as the local levies are concerned, just as it was in the original bill, and which was offered in the nature of a substitute, was adopted in its entirety. To this apparent discrimination between the State and the communities was directed the heaviest fire of the opposition.

REVENUES FROM BACK TAXES
GO TO SCHOOLS AND PENSIONS

Revenues, arising under the act, will go to the support of the State's schools of the elementary and grammar grades, with the exception of a small part set aside for the payment of pensions. The State rate for omitted taxes is fixed at 35 cents on the \$100; that on local levies will remain whatever it now is in the several individual communities.

An amendment offered by Senator Stride, providing for the collection of omitted local taxes assessed prior to 1902 if it is apparent that the taxpayer willfully tried to avoid payment of a just assessment, met decisive defeat by a vote of 25 to 6. He had previously fought a losing fight in an attempt to limit the activities of examiners of records to the period since 1908 in the collection of both State and local taxes.

Senator Gunn offered an amendment making local taxes collectible back to the time of the new Constitution. Another was offered by Senator Stride, with the same end in view, but fixing a flat rate of \$1 for both State and local assessments. Both were defeated by decisive majorities.

OFFICIAL VOTE ON
PASSAGE OF THE BILL

The official vote on the final passage of the bill was as follows:
Ayes—Messrs. Addison, Barham, Bowers, Byrd, Cannon, David, Downing, Early, Garrett, Gayle, Goodrich, Gravatt, Jeffries, Lacy, Mann, Matthews, Pileher, Rinehart, Risson, Robertson, Royall, Thornton, Trinkle, Walker, Webb and West—27.

Nays—Messrs. Allen, Conrad, Gunn, Holt, Jordan, Saunders and Strode—7.

Absent or not voting—Messrs. Andrews, Buchanan, Corbit, Brewster, Hening and Wendenburg—5.

Sponsors for the measure say it is the best solution of a difficult question in fixing the policy of the State with regard to the collection of omitted taxes, and is intended to allay the feeling of unrest that came over Virginia because of the uncertainty of the tax-payers' status. Both Senators Cannon and Goodrich were in favor of leaving the time limit just as it was fixed in the original bill, but surrendered their judgment in favor of those who saw constitutional inhibitions.

DISCRIMINATES BETWEEN
STATE AND LOCALITIES

The opponents, on the other hand, led by Senators Strode and Gunn, allege that the bill is not only discriminatory as between the State and the individual communities, but is unconstitutional as well. Section 154 of the Constitution, they say, expressly provides that no statute of limitations shall run against the claim of the State for taxes. They regard this inhibition as being equally applicable to local levies.

In meeting this argument Senator Cannon cited the Constitution to prove that the Legislature has the authority to release by general act any individual of an obligation to the State.

"The powers of the General Assembly," he said, should not have entered into this discussion. It is simply a question of policy.

"But, since the question of constitutionality has been raised, I submit my opinion that, under the Constitution, we have the authority to remit any obligation. Section 63 provides that the General Assembly shall enact no local, private, or special law remitting any obligation or liability to the State or to any political subdivision, and, in the following section, it says that, in all cases mentioned in the preceding section, general laws shall be enacted."

WOULD WIPE SLATE CLEAN
FROM DATE OF EXTRA SESSION

"I don't believe we have to go as far back as 1903. I believe we can set any limit we choose, and, for my part, I prefer to leave the people immune from collection of omitted taxes on assessments prior to 1915, believing that the best possible way to bring out intangibles is to remit any obligation incurred prior to the extra session."

"But, in an effort to harmonize divergent views, I shall vote for this

TAX BILLS MUST HAVE RIGHT OF WAY

If Revenue Is Not Provided,
Governor Will Not Approve
Appropriation Bill.

SENDS PRACTICAL ULTIMATUM

Special Message Calls Attention
to Failure to Act on Tax
Commission Program.

Unless the General Assembly acts promptly and favorably on the revenue measures proposed by the State Advisory Board on Taxation or adopts other measures which will yield to the State an equal amount of revenue, the Governor will be compelled by his constitutional obligations to veto the appropriation bill to fit the State's shrunken income.

This was the message that Governor Stuart sent to the General Assembly yesterday. The document, containing less than 300 words, called the attention of the lawmakers to the fact that only five more working days remain, and that the revenue problem must be solved at once if the life of the appropriations carried by the budget is not to be placed in jeopardy.

Courteously worded though it was, it had the effect of an ultimatum. Under the Constitution, the Governor has the right to strike from the appropriation bill any particular item or items without invalidating the measure. It was clear from the message that he would not hesitate to follow this course if compelled to do so.

HOUSTON SOUNDS
CLARION CALL TO DUTY

For the first time at the present session, Speaker Houston left his chair and took the floor. The Governor's message, he told the House, is a clarion call to duty.

"At this time it seems to me that my duty as the Speaker of this House as well as my sense of patriotism demands that I lay before you the seriousness of the situation, which the Governor's message emphasizes," said the Speaker. "If the good name of the State is to be preserved and the integrity of its interests are to be protected, prompt action is necessary on the part of this General Assembly."

The Finance Committee has performed patriotically the duty that was assigned to it, and has reported a number of measures upon which all interests have practically agreed. We have reached the danger point and have gone a little beyond it. Unless these bills are passed the appropriations will have to be cut."

SUPPORTED BY CHAIRMAN
OF FINANCE COMMITTEES

The Governor's call to duty was supported by Chairman Baker, of the Finance Committee, and Chairman Brewer, of the Appropriations Committee. Both of whom called upon the members to rally unhesitatingly to the support of the revenue measures. It was time, said Mr. Baker, for forgetting personal interests and even for making sacrifices.

Called thus sharply to deal with a problem it has repeatedly sidetracked in favor of other legislation, the House addressed itself promptly to the several revenue bills introduced by Delegates White, Moss and Murray, and adjournment of all the bills reported by the committee had been advanced to their third reading.

The reading of the Governor's message and the speeches that followed it were met by Floor Leader Willis with a motion that the House at once take up out of their order all the revenue bills on the calendar. It was found that, while the bills were listed on a calendar, most of them had not yet been distributed to the members. With the understanding that any of the bills may be reconsidered for the purpose of discussion or amendment when it comes up for passage, the House, in order to save time, advanced them all to their engrossment without debate.

GAYLE TAX-REMITTER
BILL PASSES SENATE

In the Senate the Governor's message was presented while the body was engaged in debating the amended Gayle tax-remitter bill—the measure that is looked upon as the keystone of the advisory board's structure of tax relief. The bill was passed late in the afternoon by a vote of 27 to 7.

Indications pointed yesterday to the ultimate ratification by the General Assembly of the advisory board's modified revenue program practically without material change. If this program is carried out, it will yield to the State approximately \$500,000 in increased revenues for 1917—enough to take care of the estimated deficit that would result if the present tax schedule were maintained.

The most important measures of this revenue program provide:

For an increase in the minimum license tax of merchants from \$5 to \$10, and the application of a flat 20-cent rate to purchases in excess of \$100,000.

ALLOW MANUFACTURERS
TO MAKE DEDUCTIONS

For a readjustment of the tax on capital, allowing manufacturers to deduct from their total capital subject to taxation the face value of all loans made four months prior to the taxing date.

For an increase in the franchise tax of railroad companies from 1 1/2 per cent to 1 3/4 per cent.

For the doubling of the State 50-cent rate on heat, light, power and water companies.

For an enlargement of the authority of the State advisory board, designed to give it immediate control over the activities of examiners of records.

For the appointment of examiners of records by the advisory board, instead of by the Circuit Courts, as at present.

For the limiting of back assessments, allowing the State to go back to 1903 in the assessing and taxing of hitherto

Nominated for Secretary of War



NEWTON D. BAKER.

LAST MAD SCRAMBLE TO SAVE LOCAL BILLS FOR SECRETARY OF WAR

House Adopts Time Limit for Consideration of Lower Branch Measures.

TEN-OBJECTION RULE APPLIES

Many Contested Bills on House Calendar Are Finally Put to Sleep. Prohibition Bill Goes to Committee on Conference.

Following the adoption by the House yesterday of a resolution offered from the floor by Speaker Houston, limiting it, beginning to-morrow, to the consideration of Senate bills and House bills with Senate amendments, there ensued a feverish scramble to secure action on local and general House bills still on the calendar. The House spent a turbulent day, remaining in session, with a two-hour recess, from 10 o'clock in the morning until 6:15 o'clock at night.

The "clean-up" resolution is the usual measure that is adopted in the last stages of the session to conserve time and secure unity of action on unpassed bills. In the Senate the resolution was laid on the table for action to-day. Its adoption will restrict the upper house, beginning to-morrow, to the consideration of House bills and Senate bills with House amendments.

After spending the morning session in the peaceful task of passing uncontested House bills on their third reading, the House met in the afternoon to take up measures on their second reading, many of them of general application and strongly opposed. It was apparent that if any progress were to be made, some limitation would have to be enforced, and the House voted readily for the resolution offered by Floor Leader Willis, under which every bill to which as many as ten objections were registered was to be passed by.

Early in the afternoon session, Delegate Reed made a final attempt to secure the taking out of his order of House bill No. 788, raising the State levy on real estate and tangibles from 10 cents to 20 cents. For days Mr. Reed had tried in vain to secure a consideration of this measure, encountering every time insuperable opposition.

REED TRIES TO CALL UP
SCHOOL REVENUE BILL

The House had just heard the Governor's message urging prompt action on the revenue bills and Speaker Houston's rousing call to duty. Mr. Reed came to the front with his motion. His bill, he told the House, was by far the most important revenue measure on the calendar, and its enactment into law is being demanded by school authorities the State over.

There arose a storm of debate. Delegate Hobson took the floor with an announcement that if the consideration of the bill were pressed, he was prepared to make a ten-hour speech against it. After a twenty-minute fencing for position, the opposing factions consented to a show-down on a motion to take the bill out of its order. The motion was rejected by a recorded vote of 41 to 32.

Late in the afternoon, when the House was industriously advancing House bills on their second reading and ruthlessly sending to the discard bills against which there were ten or more objections, it came again on the Reed bill. More than a score of objections were registered, and the bill fell by the wayside with the numerous other measures that are now as good as dead. Nothing short of a miraculous change of spirit can now save it.

MANY CONTESTED BILLS
ARE FINALLY PUT TO SLEEP

Under the same ten-objection rule, the House put to sleep yesterday the "pure-paint" bill, the bill for the abolition of the office of Secretary of Military Records, the bill requiring juries to file indemnity bonds and the bill re-

pealing the law against the sale of intoxicating liquors to minors.

At the time of the Baltimore convention, Mr. Baker was prominently mentioned for the vice-presidency, because of the light he made for Mr. Wilson.

Mr. Baker has been known for years as a leader of the Ohio bar, and is highly regarded by the President as a lawyer. Mr. Wilson wanted the place filled by a lawyer, because of legal questions constantly arising in the administration of the War Department, the Philippines, the Panama Canal and Porto Rico.

GERMANS CAPTURE FORGES VILLAGE IN SUDDEN ATTACK

Break Through the French
Lines for Advance of
More Than Mile.

OCCUPY PART OF TRENCH
SECTIONS IN CHAMPAGNE

Win Footing in Argonne by
Double Mine Explosion, but
Later Are Driven Back.

GUNS DOING NEARLY ALL WORK

Southeast of Verdun Trenches Con-
centrate Tremendous Fire
Against Forts.

Further German Gains
Admitted by French

FURTHER advances by the Germans in the Verdun region and in the Champagne are told in the latest French official communication, which, however, also records successes in repelling a German attempt to debouch further from captured positions, the driving of the Germans out of a trench they had taken, and the hammering with the French big guns of German organizations.

The Germans in a strong infantry attack, captured the village of Forges, about nine miles northwest of Verdun. Several times they essayed to debouch from the village against the Cote-de-L'Or, but the French, in counterattacks, forced them back into the village and held them there.

In Champagne, the right and left flanks of the French were attacked by the Germans in the region between Mont Tetu and Maisons-de-Champagne. At the former point the French kept the Germans to their trenches, but near Maisons-de-Champagne they succeeded in occupying a small section of a French trench.

In the Argonne, the French blew up near Courtes Chaussees a German post with a mine and captured a portion of the crater. Near Haute Chaussees the Germans sprang two mines, and later entered the French trenches at several points. Counterattacks, however, drove them out, and the French also occupied a portion of the mine crater.

(Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.)
LONDON, March 6.—The Germans by a heavy blow against the front northwest of Verdun to-day broke through the French lines for an advance of more than a mile, occupying the village of Forges.

The midnight statement of the French War Office admits this gain. It also admits the capture of a German trench in Champagne, where, in the vicinity of the recent German success, new trench sections were lost.

During the day the Germans launched sudden attacks at two vital points on a front of 150 miles, stretching from the Woivre to Champagne. On another sector of this front, in the Argonne region, they won a footing in the night.

The attack on Forges followed an almost ceaseless bombardment for fifteen days of the French positions west of the Meuse, stretching as far as Malancourt.

With the coming of dawn this morning, the violence of this bombardment was doubled, especially in the sector between Bethincourt, east of Malancourt, and the river. Shortly after noon the cannonading died away, and the French infantry corps, leaping from their trenches, swept forward.

A furious battle ensued in the outskirts and then in the streets of Forges. The French fell back, after a series of violent engagements, to the protection of their positions on the heights south of the town.

GERMANS FORCED TO FALL
BACK INTO VILLAGE

Pressing their advance, the Germans swept forward against Goose Hill (Cote-de-L'Or), against which the full fury of their artillery has been breaking for days. From the crest, however, the French poured down such a terrific barrier fire that the Germans, their ranks melting before the wall of steel, were forced to fall back into the village.

The French still hold strongly the vital line of which Goose Hill and Deadman's Hill (Mont Humeau) form a part. The situation west of the Meuse has developed a situation similar to that on the opposite side of the river, where, on the two-mile front between Douaumont and Haumont woods, the French have, for the time at least, brought the Germans to a halt. Against this latter front the Germans during the day launched no attacks. The bombardment, according to tonight's French report, was only intermittent.

Southeast of Verdun the Germans concentrated a tremendous fire against Forts Pfaunderville and Roethers. Reports from the front indicate that they are trying to batter the steel and concrete defenses into ruins, before attempting to launch infantry attacks. The War Office report makes special mention of the violence of this fire, and the fact that so far the Germans have abstained from storming actions. This is concentrated in the region about Presnois. This town is still held by the French.

East of Verdun three of the forts are in ruins, according to German reports received by way of Amsterdam. The